

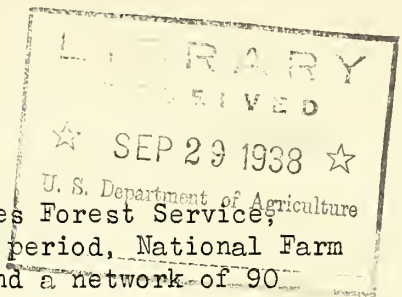
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NATIONAL FOREST VACATIONS

Pike National Forest, Colorado



A radio talk by Elizabeth S. Pitt, United States Forest Service, broadcast August 31, in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Hour, by the National Broadcasting Company and a network of 90 associated radio stations.

WALLACE KADDERLY:

Well, the time has arrived for another trip into one of our National Forests that we've been describing on the Farm and Home Hour this summer.

There's something exceedingly restful in driving along shady roads with beautiful trees on both sides...and a clear mountain stream just on your left or right. There are many, many roads like that in the National Forests. Some of you have traveled them, and perhaps way out there in the forest--remote from habitations--you met a uniformed Forest Service Officer. Maybe you stopped him to inquire the location of the public campground you were looking for. Maybe you engaged him in conversation and found out what towns get their water supply from the drainages protected by this National Forest. And perhaps Junior listened intently because he never had thought before about where the water in the bathroom faucets at home came from, and he concluded this was good stuff to tell the teacher when school starts.

Mother wanted to know the name of the beautiful wildflowers they saw a mile or so back. Well, one thing led to another and the next thing Dad packed the whole family back in the car and they were off to follow the ranger to a lookout tower to see the fine view from there and to find out how forest fires are spotted.

Many's the time I've seen these things happen.

There are 160 National Forests, and Elizabeth Pitt of the Forest Service has been picking out some of them in different parts of the country and giving you brief pictures of each one. She's taken us to North Carolina, to New England, to the Lake States, and today she's off for the Rocky Mountains. I hope she stops right in the shadow of a nice snow bank. How about it, Betsy, are you going to do that?

ELIZABETH PITT:

I am, Wallace, and I'll have to admit, Farm and Home Friends, I planned it especially for Mr. Kadderly. He's from Oregon, and this is his first year living East. I think he likes it -- in fact I know he does. And yet there have been times when there's been just a wee bit of longing for the snow-capped mountains and the fishing streams that rush down the forest-clad canyons with such a merry song. So I am going to stop in the shadow of that famous old giant of the Rockies, Pike's Peak. Does that suit your Western blood, Mr. Kadderly?

(over)

KADDERLY:

Pike's Peak is all right, but I am thinking at the moment of some mountains that don't have roads to their tops, and the only way to get to the top is by climbing up under your own power - - -

PITT:

Oh, now - - you'd better come along with us to Pike's Peak for a few minutes, anyway. Pike's Peak, Farm and Home Friends, is within the boundaries of the Pike National Forest. Now if any of you are mountain climbers, this National Forest will delight your soul. There are ten peaks that are more than 14,000 feet high, and there are any number that are more than 13,000 feet. Now, the highest mountain in Continental United States is Mount Whitney in California and the Geological Survey says Whitney is 14,495 feet high. Lincoln Peak, in the Pike Forest, is just 211 feet lower. Mount Evans, which, by the way, has a road to the top of it, is 14,260 feet. No wonder the rangers in the Pike Forest brag a bit.

KADDERLY:

(Timidly) About the roads?

PITT:

(Emphatically) No! The Peaks.

Very little was known about Colorado by folks in the rest of the country until gold was discovered there in 1858 - - and discovered, incidentally, right on the land in and around the Pike National Forest. But Pike's Peak got its name half a century earlier--back in 1806. In that year Zebulon Pike was mapping the Arkansas and Red Rivers of the Louisiana territory for the Government, and he followed the Arkansas River into what is now Colorado. There he discovered the peak that has made his name known from one end of the world to the other.

People who are fascinated by the novels and movies dealing with the romance and color of Western mining have a grand time in the Pike National Forest and the country near by. You've undoubtedly heard of the Silver Plume Camp - and the Georgetown Camp - and the Empire? Well, they are all right in or around the Pike National Forest. Also the Cripple Creek, the Alma, the Victor, and the Fairplay, which came later but are just as well known.

(Ad lib about the mining and prospecting still permitted on National Forest land. Can cut timber free of charge to use in mineral development.)

I must say something about the trees on the Pike Forest -- the fine Engelmann spruce and the valuable western yellow pine and many others, and how they are managed like a farm crop. That is the annual increase is cut and sold each year under careful supervision of Federal foresters, and no more trees go down that year. In this way, there is always a timber crop coming on, and the harvest is never over.

Also, I mustn't overlook the water used by farmers for irrigation that has its source in the watersheds of the Pike and other National Forests in Colorado. And the thousands of sheep and cattle which graze there each year. I saw a picture in the newsreel at the movies last night showing sheep grazing

on a Western National Forest and it was a beautiful sight. The owners get special permits from the Forest Service.

KADDERLY:

How about the fishing?

PITT:

(Laughing) Just as soon as a man finds out I work for the Forest Service, that's the next question--how about the fishing? I wish these men could talk to some of the foresters and experts of the Bureau of Fisheries and the State game authorities who nurse along the baby fish by the millions each year and pack them into the mountains to release in the backcountry streams for the pleasure of American sportsmen. Somebody showed me a report the other day which stated that last year eight and a half million trout were planted in the streams of the National Forests in Colorado alone. The report didn't say how many went into the Pike, but I'll bet if Supervisor Keithley, who is in charge of the Forest, had anything to do with it, the Pike got its share.

Well, I must stop -- but let me say that the Pike National Forest is not far from Denver. If you would like a brief description of it, write to the United States Forest Service, Washington, D. C. With this description, we'll also send you a map showing the location of each of the 160 National Forests in the United States. Just address your post card to the United States Forest Service, Washington, D. C.

KADDERLY:

Well, thanks a lot, Betsy. As you were talking I lived again a dozen or more trips I've made into the mountains in years gone by. You know how dreams flash through your mind! Rapid succession of vivid pictures. Only there were real experiences...in retrospect. They sort o' got me stirred up -- and I noticed that old camper Bob Bankage was doing a bit of fly casting over there in the corner! But it was all right. This radio trailriding is better than nothing. I really enjoyed hearing something about the Pike National Forest, even if it had to be brief, and I am sure our Farm and Home friends did too. I hope we all get a chance to see it some time.

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